

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03537 260212Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 SSM-03 DHA-02 /092 W
-----074514 260216Z /63/16

R 221248Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4654
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3537

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 3537 VICE 3637

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANON INTERNAL: CONVERSATION WITH WALID JUMBLATT

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES SOUTH LEBANON WITH WALID JUMBLATT AND TELLS HIM WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY ISRAELIS THEY HAVE NO TERRITORIAL DESIGNS. JUMBLATT EXPRESSES HOPE THAT PALESTINIANS CAN BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL BUT REITERATES VIEW THAT THEIR PRESENCE AFFORDS SOME PROTECTION TO DRUZE AGAINST MARONTIES. SAYS CHAMOUNITS SHOWING NO INTEREST IN RECONCILIATION REGARDING SHUF AND HE REMAINS APPREHENSIVE REGARDING MARONITE INTENTIONS. HE CLAIMS SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE HAS HIRED SOME OF PERPETRATORS OF SHUF MASSACRES. JUMBLATT SAYS SYRIANS WANT HIM TO COOPERATE WITH THEIR AGENTS HERE BUT OFFERING NOTHING IN RETURN. SYAS SYRIANS SEEKING SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH LEBANON. JUMBLATT LEAVING FOR ALGIERS AND TUNIS NEXT WEEK. HE STOPPING IN PARIS TO DISCUSS PUBLICATION HIS FATHER'S LAST BOOK. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03537 260212Z

2. HAD LONG LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH DRUZE LEADER WALID JUMBLATT AT IN-TOWN RESIDENCE JULY 21 (HE UNWILLING TO GO UP TO YARZE UNLESS ESCORTED BY US). MY PURPOSE IN INVITING HIM WAS TO DISCUSS SOUTH. TOLD HIM I UNDERSTOOD HE BELIEVED ISRAELIS WERE PLANNING INVADE AND OCCUPY SOUTH LEBANON. I WANTED TO TELL HIM WE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY ISRAELIS THAT THEY HAVE NO SUCH INTENTIONS. ISRAELIS DID NOT

APPEAR THINK IT IN THEIR NATIONAL INTEREST FOR THEM TO OCCUPY ANY PORTION OF LEBANON, NOR DID THEY HAVE INTENTION ENGAGING IN POLICE ACTION. I HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT PALESTINIANS WERE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS THAT IF THEY WERE TO UNDERTAKE CROSS-BORDER ACTIONS ISRAELI RESPONSE WOULD NOT BE SWIFT AND HARD. ISRAELIS HAD ALSO INDICATED THEY FELT OBLIGATION TO PROTECT CHRISTIANS IN THAT AREA AND SEEMED TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. IF IT WAS TRUE, AS RUMORED EARLIER TODAY, THAT PALESTINIANS HAD ATTACKED ALMA ASH-SHAAB DAY BEFORE, THAT WAS UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT AND WOULD MAKE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN AREA MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

3. JUMBLATT NOTED MY REMARKS AND SAID HE DEVOUTLY WISHED PALESTINIAN PROBLEM COULD BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL. NOBODY WANTED THEM IN LEBANON. IN ABSENCE NATIONAL CONSENSUS, HOWEVER, DRUZE REGARDED PRESENCE OF PALESTINIANS AS BEING TO A CERTAIN EXTENT PROTECTION FOR THEM. DRUZE OUTNUMBERED BY MARONITES WHO BETTER ORGANIZED AND BETTER EQUIPPED AT THIS POINT, AND COUNTING ON ISRAELI SUPPORT IN ANY CONTEST WITH THEIR OPPONENTS. HIS FATHER HAD USED PALESTINIANA FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES AND PALESTINIANS HAD USED HIM IN TURN. HE DID LIKE NOT TO BE DEPENDENT ON PALESTINIANS, BUT AT THIS POINT HAD NO ALTERNATIVE GIVEN HIS DOUBTS AND FEARS ABOUT MARONITE INTENTIONS TOWARDS DRUZE.

4. I RECALLED THAT DURING OUR LAST CONVERSATION HE HAD SAID HE HOPED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT RECONCILIATION BETWEEN MARONITES AND DRUZE IN THE SHUF. I HAD SUBSEQUENTLY MENTIONED THIS TO THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03537 260212Z

GEMAYELS WHO HAD SAID PROBLEM WAS WITH CHAMOUNISTS, NOT WITH PHALANGE. JUMBLATT NODDED TO INDICATE THAT THIS WAS CORRECT. I HAD ALSO DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH CHAMOUNISTS, WHO WERE ALREADY AWARE OF HIS OFFER TO PRESIDENT TO TURN OVER SOME OF THE PEOPLE GUILTY OF THE MASSACRES LAST MARCH. CHAMOUNISTS HAD BEEN VERY SKEPTICAL AND HAD NOT SHOWN INTEREST.

5. JUMBLATT SAID HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CHAMOUNISTS INDIRECTLY THROUGH A MEMBER OF NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY WHO HAD PROTECTED JUMBLATTI HOUSE IN HAZMIEH. CHAMOUNISTS HAD SHOWN NO INTEREST IN DIALOGUE. HE HAD ALSO GOTTEN NO RESPONSE FROM PRESIDENT SARKIS TO WHOM HE HAD MADE PROPOSAL TO TURN OVER CRIMINAL ELEMENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSACRE. HE WAS NOT CERTAIN OF EXPLANATION, BUT SUSPECTED THAT ONE FACTOR MIGHT BE SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE WHICH HAD HIRED SOME OF PERPETRATORS AS ITS AGENTS. OTHERS AMONG PERPETRATORS HAD FLED COUNTRY, BUT A FEW WERE STILL AROUND. HE WAS STILL READY TO MOVE AGAINST THEM, BUT WOULD NOT DO SO IN ABSENCE CHAMOUNIST INTEREST.

6. I ASKED ABOUT HIS TRIP TO DAMASCUS. HE SAID HE HAD MET WITH ASAD IN EFFORT TO CLEAR UP CERTAIN POINTS. ASAD HAD BEEN VERY "HARD). HE HAD DEMANDED THAT JUMBLATTIS COOPERATE WITH BROAD

NATIONAL FRONT, I.E., WITH KAMEL SHATILA. JUMBLATT WAS UNWILLING TO DO SO BECAUSE SHATILA WAS SIMPLY A SYRIAN AGENT. QASIM QANSOH HE MIGHT COOPERATE WITH, BUT NOT SHATILA. IF HE WERE TO DO THAT HE MIGHT AS WELL DISSOLVE THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND GET OUT OF POLITICS. FURTHERMORE, ASAD HAD OFFERED NOTHING IN RETURN. HE SIMPLY DEMANDED COOPERATION WITH SYRIAN AGENTS.

7. WALID SAID HE WAS INTERESTED IN THE GOOD OF LEBANON AND FOR THAT CAUSE WAS PREPARED TO OVERLOOK FACT THAT SYRIANS WERE RESPONSIBLE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FOR DEATH OF HIS FATHER. THERE WERE LIMITS AS TO HOW FAR HE WOULD GO, HOWEVER. I ASKED IF HE KNEW YET WHO HAD DONE THAT JOB. HE SAID THERE WERE RUMORS AND SUPPOSITIONS POINTING TO RIFAAT ASSAD, BUT NOTHING DEFINITE. I SAID WE HAD HEARD THE SAME RUMORS EVERYBODY ELSE HAD, BUT WE TOO HAD NO REAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 03537 260212Z

INFORMATION.

8. WALID ASKED IF WE THOUGHT THE SYRIANS WOULD PROLONG THEIR STAY IN LEBANON. I SAID EVERYTHING WE HEARD FROM THEM INDICATED THAT THEY WANTED TO GET OUT OF THIS COUNTRY AS SOON AS THEY COULD. WE BOTH AGREED THAT FOR THEM TO LEAVE NOW WOULD PRECIPITATE A RESUMPTION OF THE FIGHTING. WALID SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT THE SYRIANS WERE INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING A POSITION HERE AND IN HAVING A GOVERNMENT AND AN ARMY TIED TO THEM. ASAD HAD SPOKEN TO HIM OF A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP. IN PRINCIPLE, THAT MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA, BUT ONE NEEDED TO KNOW THE DETAILS OF WHAT HE HAD IN MIND. SYRIANS WERE WORKING THROUGH CRIMINAL ELEMENTS AND HAD FAILED SO FAR TO ATTRACT ANY DECENT LEBANESE TO THEIR SIDE. ICRC HAD INFORMED HIM SYRIANS HOLDING 400 POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM LEBANON. ABOUT TEN WERE JUMBLATTIS. HE HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO GET EXPLANATION FROM ASAD. THIS DID NOT ENCOURAGE WARM FEELINGS TOWARD SYRIA.

9. JUMBLATT SAID HE WAS GOING OFF TO ALGIERS AND TUNIS NEXT WEEK, LEAVING HERE ON JULY 25 AND GOING VIA PARIS WHERE HE WOULD SPEND TWO DAYS TRYING TO STRAIGHTEN OUT CERTAIN PROBLEMS RELATED TO HIS FATHER'S POSTHUMOUS BOOK. HE DOUBTED BOOK WOULD BE ALLOWED TO CIRCULATE IN ARAB COUNTRIES BECAUSE HIS FATHER HAD HAD SOME HARSH THINGS TO SAY ABOUT VARIOUS ARAB GOVERNMENTS. THERE WERE NO BOMB-SHELLS IN IT, HOWEVER. I SAID I LOOKED FORWARD TO ITS PUBLICATION AND ASKED WHETHER IT HAD BEEN WRITTEN AND DRAFTED IN FRENCH OR ARABIC. WALID SAID IT HAD BEEN DRAFTED IN FRENCH AND ONE OF THE PROBLEMS HE WAS TO ADDRESS WAS WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE AN ARABIC TRANSLATION.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT03537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770265-0560
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770731/aaaabaaw.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3bc3ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1783505
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON INTERNAL: CONVERSATION WITH WALID JUMBLATT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, US, (PARKER, RICHARD B), (JUMBLATT, WALID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3bc3ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009